

Members of the Judiciary Committee

I write in support of the Bill No. 6667 “An Act Addressing Gun Violence,” and Bill No. 6834 “...Concerning...Offenses by Repeat Offenders,” Bill No. 6816 “...Concerning Micro-Stamping. I qualify my support of Bill No. 6817 “...Concerning...Right to Own...or Carry a Firearm.”

People carrying a firearm should at least have a permit. However, I wish the bills would go further, and prohibit open carry of firearms. Bill 6817 allows a person to carry a handgun in state parks for “the purpose of self-defense.” It does not define “the purpose of self-defense.”

Recently, I was at Costco buying gas. The man at the pump behind me had a pistol on his hip looking for all the world like a character out of Guns Smoke. What is the point of openly carrying a gun while pumping gas? Surely not self-defense at the gas pump. I don’t know his mental state, or what might set him off. Frankly, I was intimidated. I wanted to get away as soon as possible. I was defenseless against his lethal weapon should he decide he didn’t like my face, or my bumper sticker, or believed I was blocking his way. He wasn’t in “a well-regulated militia”—at least not while he was pumping gas! Please consider and protect the rights of people to feel secure in going about ordinary daily activities.

Thank you.

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